

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 1997-2  
REPORT TO LEGISLATURE – FY 2003**

**Fire Investigation, Education and Training**

**Prepared by**

**Fire Marshal Division  
Department of State Police**

**Submitted to**

**Members of the  
Senate and House Subcommittees on  
State Police  
As required by Sec. 901 of 2002 PA 526**

**May 15, 2003**

## **Executive Order**

Executive Order 1997-2 transferred certain responsibilities to the Department of Consumer and Industry Services and the Department of Environmental Quality, as follows:

### **Department of Consumer and Industry Services:**

- Plan review and fire safety inspection functions
- Fire inspector certification and training
- Fire alarm and fire suppression system installation, documentation, and certification
- Fire extinguishing compound use and approval
- Hazardous chemicals in the workplace
- The State Fire Safety Board

### **Department of Environmental Quality:**

- Above Ground Storage Tank program
- Inspection of dry cleaning establishments

All other responsibilities of the **Fire Marshal Division** were retained, including but not limited to:

- Fire investigation
- Public education
- Fire incident reporting
- Imminent hazard abatement
- Training and education
- The Michigan Insured Fire Loss Reporting System
- Explosives permits
- Fireworks
- Fire investigation training to locals
- The Fire Fighters Training Council

## **Requirement for Report**

This report was prepared pursuant to the directive of Act 526 of the Public Acts of 2002 (Michigan State Police Budget Act), specifically Section 901, which reads as follows:

Sec. 901. (1) The department shall prepare a detailed report and deliver it to the senate and house subcommittees on the state police not later than May 15, 2003.

(2) The report shall contain input from a delegate appointed from and by the following organizations:

- (a) Michigan fire chiefs association.
- (b) Michigan state fireman's association.
- (c) Michigan firefighter's union.
- (d) Michigan fire service instructors association.
- (e) Michigan fire inspectors society.
- (f) Michigan chapter of the international association of arson investigators.

(3) The report shall contain information about the quality and adequacy of service from the state fire investigation, education, and training under the reorganization of the fire marshal division responsibilities. The report shall be based on the performance of the fire marshal division in the performance of its fire safety duties during fiscal year 2002-2003.

### **Process**

A letter was directed to the head of each of the organizations identified in the budget act ([sample attached](#)). The letter was sent March 17, 2003, and requested that comments be directed to our office no later than April 7, 2003.

The letter requested information about the services provided by the Fire Marshal Division following full implementation of Executive Order 1997-2. The letter contained the text of the budget act requirement for the report, as well as an explanation that the "reorganization" refers to the reorganization that took place October 1, 1997.

### **Comments Received**

A written response was received from one of the six organizations identified in the statute. A copy of the response from the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society (MFIS) is [attached](#). The MFIS indicated satisfaction with the current operations of the Fire Marshal Division.

## **Fire Marshal Programs**

Following is information about each of the specific programs for which the Fire Marshal Division is responsible:

### **Fire Investigation:**

- The Fire Marshal Division has 19 specialist sergeants assigned to fire investigation responsibilities strategically located at 18 field offices statewide. They work under the supervision of a region supervisor. The division has four region supervisors.
- Investigators conduct origin and cause investigations of fires, related follow-up investigation, detection, and prosecution of fire related fraud investigations, arson awareness training, enforce fireworks and explosives laws, respond to hazardous materials incidents and requests for imminent hazard abatement, and provide consultation to fire and law enforcement authorities.
- The "Arson Tipline" (1-800-44ARSON) is administered by Fire Marshal Division headquarters. This statewide program is to gather information in regard to arson fires. All tip information is recorded and forwarded to the proper investigating agency for follow-up.

### **Public Education:**

The Fire Marshal Division has adopted an aggressive Public Fire Education strategy to guide its efforts. Implementation of the strategy is based on information, guidance, and support provided by a Public Fire Education Advisory Committee, made up of members of local fire departments from around the state. Key components include:

- An elementary school public fire safety education curriculum, *Safe At Home*, established as a baseline program, designed to be usable at little or no cost by any fire department in any size community in Michigan.
- A Senior Fire Safety Module for *Safe at Home*, designated to be used by fire departments in senior centers, apartment complexes, and assisted living facilities.
- Public education information published in *Fire TIES*, the monthly newsletter of the Fire Marshal Division and Fire Fighters Training Council.
- Displays of public education materials and information at fire association meetings.
- Fire safety news releases during holidays, Fire Prevention Week, Arson Prevention Week, and when significant events take place.
- Promotion of nationally recognized safety programs.
- Distribution of a minimal number of pamphlets and brochures.

- Support of a fire module for Teaching, Educating, And Mentoring (T.E.A.M.), a program managed by the Prevention Services Section, Special Operations Division.
- Issuance of alerts on unsafe products or practices to educate the public and the fire service.
- Support of a website containing public education materials.

#### **Fire Incident Reporting:**

- Michigan's 1,075 fire departments are required to report their activity to the Fire Marshal Division.
- Michigan was the first state to implement and go on-line with the new National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), a state-of-the-art, internet-based, data collection system. Michigan leads the nation with the highest percentage of fire reporting. Effective January 1, 2003, all fire departments in the state were to convert to electronic filing. This has allowed timely annual reports, as well as real time access to Michigan's data for training, investigation, and public education purposes.
- The data is used to identify trends in fire causes which can be used in education efforts, for investigative purposes, and as the basis for changes in standards, codes, and statutes.

#### **Imminent hazard abatement:**

- The Fire Marshal Division continues to work with local fire departments in dealing with situations which exceed the resources available locally.

#### **Training and Education:**

- *Fire TIES* is published monthly. This newsletter is primarily for the fire service and is distributed to every fire department in the state.
- The Fire Marshal Division maintains an Internet website at [www.michigan.gov/msp](http://www.michigan.gov/msp). The site contains valuable information for the fire service.
- The Fire Marshal Division is the Michigan distribution agency for the "*North American Emergency Response Guidebook*" which is carried in every police, fire, and emergency medical vehicle in the state. The book provides detailed initial instructions to be taken in a hazardous materials incident.

**The Michigan Insured Fire Loss Reporting System:**

- Data on insured fire losses is being entered into the system and will be used primarily in the identification of arson-related fraud.
- The data will be compared to the National Fire Incident Reporting System as a further crosscheck on suspicious fires.

**Explosives Permits:**

- The Fire Marshal Division maintains a database of all explosives permits issued in the state.
- Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies access the information as needed for investigative and regulatory purposes. The database has been used by law enforcement agencies in the investigation of incidents such as the Oklahoma City bombing.

**Fireworks:**

- Fire Marshal Division investigators play a key role in the investigation of fireworks incidents.
- Work is continuing on a proposed revision of the Fireworks Law, 1931 PA 328, as amended.
- Videotapes and articles updating law enforcement agencies on recognizing legal and illegal fireworks and permits and standards for public display have been developed and distributed.
- The division also publishes and distributes a fireworks guide for local government, fire, and law enforcement agencies throughout Michigan.

**Fire Investigation Training to Locals:**

- Provides the following training programs to local police and fire investigators on an on-going basis:
  - a) 80-hour Fire Investigation I—two schools annually (formerly Basic Fire Investigation). This program is nationally accredited.
  - b) 40-hour Fire Investigation II school (formerly Advanced Fire Investigation)
  - c) 32-hour Vehicle Fire Investigation school
  - d) 40-hour Follow-Up school
  - e) 40-hour Arson school (joint with the Michigan Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators)
  - f) 32-hour Mobile Homes school (joint with MI Arson Prevention Committee)
  - g) 40-hour Prosecutors school—two schools annually (joint with MI Arson Prevention Committee)

**Fire Fighters Training Council:**

The Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council staff is responsible to serve the training needs of the state's more than 31,000 fire fighters and 1,075 departments by providing the following services:

- Prepare and publish advisory standards for the selection of fire fighters
- Prepare and publish training standards
- Establish instructor qualifications and certification
- Establish courses of study
- Evaluate instructors and schools
- Develop and administer certification examinations for new fire fighters
- Establish regional training centers to assist departments with training
- Cooperate with state, federal, and local fire agencies for training of fire fighters
- Issue certificates of training and maintain individual records

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Attachments (2)